



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

November 3, 2005

Attendees:

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

		Committee Membership
Tim Mick, Acting Chair	Bermuda District	Chair, Capital Projects Committee Budget Committee Chair, Background Check Committee
Bob Terrell	Dale District	Chair, Athletics Activities Committee Capital Projects Committee, Background Checks Committee
Jack Griffin	Bermuda District	Capital Projects Committee, Athletics Activities Committee, Background Checks Committee
Jose Sanchez	Clover Hill District	
Ron Maxey	Midlothian District	Capital Projects Committee Athletics Activities Committee
Will Shewmake	Midlothian District	

Not in Attendance:

Lynn Crump, Chair	School Board	Capital Projects Committee, Outreach and Greenways Advocacy Committee
Dennis Harding, Vice Chair	Dale District	Athletics Activities Committee Budget Committee
Earl Gee	Matoaca District	Budget Committee Athletics Activities Committee
Tim Russell	Matoaca District	Chair, Budget Committee Athletics Activities Committee, Background Checks Committee
Frank McDavid	Clover Hill District	Chair, Outreach and Greenways Advocacy Committee National Background Checks

Parks and Recreation Staff

Mike Golden, Director, Liaison Budget and Capital Projects Committees

Lynell McClinton, Chief of Finance, Liaison Budget and Capital Projects Committees

Phil Innis, Assistant Director, Liaison Athletic Activities and Capital Projects Committees and Background Checks Committee

Bruce Dove, Assistant Director, Liaison Athletic Activities and Capital Projects Committees
 Mark Askin, Chief of Parks, Liaison Capital Projects Committee
 Stuart Connock, Jr., Chief of Parks Design and Construction, Liaison Capital Projects and Outreach and Greenways Advocacy Committees
 Bill Carlson, Athletics Manager, Liaison Athletic Activities Committee and Capital Projects Committee
 Dave Caras, Liaison Outreach and Greenways Advocacy Committee
 Rebecca J Parker, CPS/CAP, Secretary

2005 Standing Committees

Budget	Capital Projects	Athletics Activities	Background Checks	Outreach and Greenways
Tim Russell, Chair	Tim Mick, Chair	Bob Terrell, Chair	Tim Mick, Chair	Frank McDavid, Chair
Earl Gee	Lynn Crump	Earl Gee	Jack Griffin	Lynn Crump
Dennis Harding	Jack Griffin	Jack Griffin	Frank McDavid	
Tim Mick	Ron Maxey	Dennis Harding	Tim Russell	
	Bob Terrell	Tim Russell	Bob Terrell	
		Ron Maxey		

Speakers on Scheduled and Unscheduled Matters

Delores Waters	Senior Volleyball
Sherman Litton	Chesterfield Basketball League (CBL)
Rick Brockwell	USSSA Baseball State Rep.
Larry Lawless	Huguenot Little League
Robert Hodges	Chesterfield Basketball League (CBL)
Kitty Belcher	Chesterfield Cheerleading League (CCL)

- I. Acting-Chair, Tim Mick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**
- II. Invocation:**
Tim Mick asked for a moment of silence for all those at risk overseas.
- III. Approval of Minutes:**
 Approval of the minutes was delayed until enough members arrived to provide a quorum. After six members were present, Bob Terrell made a motion to approve the minutes from September 1, 2005. There was no discussion or changes. Jack Griffin seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.
- IV. Changes to Agenda: Due to the number of speakers and issues to be addressed, the agenda was changed by reducing the number of Committee reports, since most committees had not met.**

V. Parks and Recreation Director's Remarks:

Phil Innis reported in Mike Golden's absence. Mr. Innis advised that correspondence had been received from the Richmond Sports Backers detailing a new grant program available to athletic groups through Haynes Jeep Chrysler. This grant program has a total of \$40,000 available that will be distributed in increments of \$500 to \$5,000. This funding is available to groups holding tournaments that invite teams/groups from outside the Richmond area, with the purpose of increasing the number of visitors to Richmond. For more information, athletic groups can contact Richmond Sports Backers at (804) 285-9495 or visit their website at www.sportsbackers.org.

Mr. Innis also discussed the 2006 nominations for the *Hall of Fame* and PRAC review of the guidelines. Tim Mick assigned this issue to the Athletic Activities Committee for their review.

Mr. Innis introduced and welcomed the new PRAC member representing the Midlothian District, Mr. William Shewmake. Mr. Shewmake thanked the Commission and said he was looking forward to serving. Tim Mick also welcomed him and invited him to serve on any committee that was of interest to him.

VI. Committee Reports:

Budget Committee: Did not meet

Capital Projects Committee

Chair Tim Mick advised that the committee did meet and requested that any questions be deferred until after tonight's PRAC meeting. Mr. Mick announced that the Capital Projects Committee was currently on holiday break for the months of November and December.

Athletic Activities Committee:

Chair, Bob Terrell reported that the committee did not meet.

Outreach and Greenways Advocacy Committee - Did not meet

Background Checks Committee: Did not meet.

VII. Hearing of Citizens on Unscheduled Matters

Delores Waters, Senior Volleyball

Ms. Water reported that they had an application granting the use of Hopkins Elementary for September 12, 2005, through – 24, 2006. Ms. Waters said they have used this location for approximately 8 years. She said that Hopkins Elementary provides good lighting inside and outside, high ceilings and a safe environment. Ms. Waters stressed that she was not here to attack but to educate. Ms. Waters noted that they were not contacted prior to this change and the changes should not have been made without their knowledge. Ms. Waters said that the Commission should have worked with Senior Volleyball as well as basketball.

Ms. Waters also said that the alternate location offered was Bellwood Elementary and this school has poor lighting and it is further to drive. Ms. Waters requested that they be allowed to keep their schedule at Hopkins. Hopkins is the only school in the County that has senior volleyball.

Ron Maxey pointed out that he did not vote in favor of the change at the October 6 meeting and would like to see this issue resolved.

Phil Innis and Bill Carlson discussed the various alternatives under consideration, Beulah, Margueritte Christian and Bellwood. Mr. Innis said Margueritte Christian was currently under consideration but no final decision had been made.

Ms. Waters pointed out that Senior Volleyball participants drive from all directions in the County (sometimes alone) and travel up to 15 miles. Ms. Waters stressed to Mr. Shewmake that the quality of the facility and the location itself were the two main issues.

Phil Innis said that all groups were not contacted about the changes made prior to the October 6 meeting. As quoted on page 9, of the October 6 minutes, Phil Innis confirmed that Senior Volleyball was not co-sponsored. Jack Griffin said it was his understanding at the October 6 meeting that Senior Volleyball was not notified but would be notified after the decision was made to move them to Margueritte Christian. Jack Griffin said he had voted to approve because the seniors can drive to a distant location and the age group participating in youth basketball cannot drive; however, they could walk to Hopkins Elementary. More teams were needed to meet the demand at Hopkins Elementary by kids that wanted to sign up and therefore, the location of Senior Volleyball was changed. Tim Mick asked why the shift was made to Bellwood from the proposed Margueritte Christian. Phil Innis said after talking to participants, the location at Margueritte Christian was not acceptable. Mr. Shewmake asked why days of the week were so significant and could not be moved. Bill Carlson advised that almost all elementary school gyms are shared Monday-Friday. Over 5,000 kids are using gyms. In the following weeks when basketball begins, all gyms will be used every night. Bob Terrell pointed out that Margueritte Christian is a beautiful facility. Jack Griffin noted that the Public Hearing for indoor gym assignments was scheduled for September and was delayed until October 6 and this caused the timeframe to be compressed. Sherman Litton advised that his gym assignments were given out Sunday night after the October PRAC meeting. Sherman Litton said that Parks had the gym at Hopkins two nights per week. The proposal to keep Senior Volleyball at Hopkins and move Adult Men's Basketball to another gym on their Wednesday was discussed. Tim Mick pointed out that without the groups present at this meeting and able to be involved in the decision to discuss a trade, the problem could not actually be resolved. Jack Griffin agreed that shifting days and times and involving other groups would only continue the same issue with another group. Tim Mick said he wanted a resolution and noted that mistakes were made by this body by not contacting everyone involved and making a decision without contacting everyone involved that resulted in making assignments and pushing through changes. An open hearing was held that did not include these groups because they did not receive notification and were not invited to attend. Mr. Mick stressed that this issue must be handled fairly.

Ms. Waters asked if the application they had for Hopkins meant anything. Ron Maxey wanted to know why co-sponsorship takes priority over sponsored groups and stated that he had the understanding this was a Parks and Recreation organization and not a co-sponsorship organization. Tim Mick advised that

it was not a monetary issue but rather a paper work and guidelines issue that determined co-sponsorship. Phil said historically co-sponsored organizations were given preference.

Sherman Litton agreed to move the Youth Boy's Basketball group from Wednesday to Thursday at Hopkins. Senior Volleyball will maintain their same days and location. Sherman Litton said that he would handle the changes within the Youth Boy's Basketball organization. Bill Carlson said that Men's Adult Basketball would be moved from Hopkins on Thursday to accommodate Youth Boy's Basketball. Ron Maxey was concerned that there would be the same issue with Adult Men's Basketball. Bill Carlson advised that Adult Men's Basketball is a fee-based program and participants do not sign up for a particular gym.

Ron Maxey asked for assurances that Senior Volleyball would receive notification about future issues that affected their organization. Ms. Waters advised that their contact was on vacation in Hawaii. Tim Mick suggested to Ms. Waters that their organization keep in touch with Parks and Recreation. Ron Maxey confirmed with Bill Carlson that Parks and Recreation is the representative of sponsored organizations such as Senior Volleyball at public hearings.

Jack Griffin pointed out that since Parks and Recreation is the representative of sponsored organization, the key contacts for Senior Volleyball were actually present at the October 6 PRAC meeting when the original decision to move Senior Volleyball was made.

Rick Brockwell USSSA Baseball

Mr. Brockwell thanked PRAC for the opportunity to speak. He distributed information about USSSA. He reported that this organization was now a multi-sport organization. Last year from August 1 – July 31, 590 USSSA teams were in state of Virginia and nationally there were 31,000 teams. USSSA teams are organized – six and under all the way to 80 and under.

Mr. Brockwell requested co-sponsorship with Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation. He pointed out that USSSA is a non-profit organization and they have their own insurance, keep web-based rosters and enforce guidelines. He also confirmed that USSSA would enforce background checks for coaches.

Tim Mick advised Mr. Brockwell to contact Bill Carlson for the co-sponsorship application. Mr. Brockwell said that of the 450 teams registered in 2006-- 60 are Chesterfield teams. Bill Carlson said 85% of all participants on the teams based in Chesterfield must be Chesterfield residents in order to qualify for co-sponsorship. Tim Mick assigned the request for co-sponsorship to the Athletic Activities Committee for review. Tim Mick pointed out that this was the first request for co-sponsorship under the recently approved Category D guidelines.

Larry Lawless, Huguenot Little League

Mr. Lawless introduced himself as the representative for Huguenot Little League in a position formerly held by Randy Carrington. His duties would include grounds maintenance. Mr. Lawless said that for the past two weeks he had been screening and moving donated topsoil in order to make the facility safer for parents and kids. He asked if the County could bring in some gravel and manpower.

Ron Maxey asked Stuart Connock, Jr. about the renovation plans for the building used by Huguenot Little League. Stuart said the first step was putting a new roof on the building. Mr. Connock, Jr. explained that there would be several years of renovation that would include drainage, fencing and the concession. Ron Maxey asked about the potholes in the upper, side parking lot. Bruce Dove said that repair of the parking lot and facility renovations would come from the same funds. Bruce said the focus would be on facilities and then the parking lot. Bruce Dove said that the parking lot is owned by Parks and Recreation and was extended parking.

Stuart Connock, Jr. advised Mr. Shewmake that the bus turnaround had been re-stripped. Mr. Shewmake pointed out that a serious erosion problem also existed and Ms. Salvati with County Environmental Engineering had pointed out that this was the worst type of soil to be washing into the tributaries. Mr. Shewmake asked that this issue also be addressed.

Tim Mick suggested that Stuart Connock, Jr. and Mark Askin meet with Mr. Lawless and his group and discuss their concerns and priorities for this site. Stuart Connock, Jr. said he and Mark Askin would meet with Mr. Lawless and the group and bring their concerns and priorities to the Capital Projects Committee for review.

Robert Hodges, President of Chesterfield Basketball League (CBL)

Mr. Hodges discussed the issue of gym time for senior volleyball and youth basketball. Mr. Hodges stressed the importance of focusing on kids in the neighborhoods such as Bensley and Bermuda. Mr. Hodges said he thought this concept was endorsed by Parks and Recreation as one of the means to fight the decline of youth participation in sports. Mr. Hodges said that Parks and Recreation has the responsibility to help youth and distribute facilities with the focus on youth. Mr. Hodges pointed out that senior drivers have more flexibility than kids who must walk to their gyms.

Mr. Hodges said he was happy to give his time and effort to the important mission of helping youth and was aware of how difficult it could be for some of the youth of today.

Ron Maxey said that he was very supportive of youth and thought that the issue was not seniors vs. youth—the issue was that the seniors had no opportunity for input before the decision was made. Ron stated that there should be a balance between youth and seniors.

Tim Mick thanked Mr. Hodges and Sherman Litton for their flexibility and contributions.

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business:

Kitty Belcher, Chesterfield Cheerleading League (CCL)

Ms. Belcher said if, as mentioned earlier, Parks and Recreation is the representative for CCL, they did not do a very good job in October at the public hearing. Ms. Belcher said that their season for cheerleading was over and their competition is beginning. The second Sunday in November is the *Super Bowl* of cheerleading—the state competition held at the Civic Center. Ms. Belcher said that they were not receiving notification other than an agenda and Ms. Belcher said she did not receive an agenda last month.

Ms. Belcher said a possible compromise could be for Parks and Recreation to give CBL the Saturday after election week and CBL would relinquish practice time. Bill Carlson said if CBL gives up times it may equal out. Tim Mick said there is also a funding issue. Phil Innis said that there is gym rental costs as well as a monitor and custodian costs that would have to be funded. Phil Innis said if funding can be secured the compromise would work.

Bill Carlson noted the Open and Close Dates are in the Sports Manual and are approved by PRAC. Tim Mick said a process is in place that sets time for opening and closing. The process has been moved around in the past few years. As a County group a decision must be made to be firm about changes once dates are set and to make sure everyone receives communication about any changes.

Bill Carlson said the Chesterfield Cheerleading League's schedule for 2005 is set. For 2006, a proposal has been made for the CCL representatives, the CBL representatives and Parks and Recreation to meet and discuss this issue. Tim Mick advised that since PRAC does not have the *power of the purse*, this issue was now with Parks and Recreation. Tim Mick invited Ms. Belcher to come back to PRAC if there were issues that PRAC could help her to resolve.

Phil Innis said that the costs would be calculated and if funds were not available the only remedy would be to submit them as an add-back for approval by the Board of Supervisors in April. Tim Mick said that Bill Carlson, Phil Innis, Sherman Litton and Kitty Belcher would meet to discuss a resolution to this issue.

Kitty Belcher said that as Bill Carlson had mentioned, he went by guidelines and changes to one will always affect others. Bill Carlson said the proposed Open and Close Dates were not different but were changed at the October 6 meeting. Ms. Belcher said that one of the reasons PRAC was formed was to facilitate groups working together.

Tim Mick thanked the Chesterfield Cheerleading League for coming and apologized for any inconvenience that the Commission had caused CCL.

Tim Mick confirmed to Bill Carlson that PRAC approved the Open and Close Dates on the first pass. Tim Mick said that, in his opinion, the subsequent changes were not handled properly. Mr. Mick asked the Athletic Activities Committee to work with Parks and Recreation to resolve this issue as a medium for discussion and its possible return to PRAC.

Bill Carlson raised questions about what changes to submit to print in the Sports Manual. Tim Mick said that the switch made by CBL of first week in November for the first week in January was approved. CBL is now willing to give up the first of November week --if they can get two Saturdays. This first week in November should be put in the manual as to-be-determined.

Tim Mick said that the decision stands as the record shows from the October 6 meeting and without the funding, CCL has lost their time. Work to fund this time will begin at Parks and Recreation. If funding is not found, the Chesterfield Cheerleading League is invited back to PRAC.

Phil Innis was questioned about remarks in the October 6 minutes stating that dates were swapped without opposition and he pointed out that two years were under discussion, 2005 and 2006.

Tim Mick said that the issue was not dead for CCL and would come back to PRAC through the Athletic Activities Committee if not resolved.

Parks and Recreation Election Committee for 2006

Tim Mick asked that Ron Maxey Chair this Committee and he accepted. Bob Terrell and Will Shewmake also agreed to serve on this Committee.

Dates for 2006 PRAC Meetings

Tim Mick made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2006. Jack Griffin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The dates were unanimously approved.

X. Reports:

- Construction Status Report

Stuart Connock, Jr. distributed the report to the Commission. Tim Mick requested that members discuss any concerns with Stuart Connock after the meeting.

James River High School

Mr. Shewmake discussed the proposed James River Soccer fields. Mr. Connock, Jr. said only the projects underway are listed. Mr. Connock, Jr. said Parks and Recreation is awaiting cost analysis. Bruce said various options are being explored.

Ron Maxey said that Singular Wireless has funds available to put a tower on the light poles at James River High School.

Huguenot Park Senior Center

Ron Maxey asked about participation at the public hearing on the Senior Center. Bruce advised Mike Golden attended that meeting and he thought that about twelve people attended. Bruce confirmed that there would be future meetings.

Mr. Shewmake asked if the parcel of land between Robious Landing Park and Research Road had been requested. Stuart Connock said it had not been brought up.

Status of Co-sponsored Leagues

Concession Permits

Phil Innis advised that all leagues are now in compliance. Phil Innis thanked the Commission for their help.

XI Public Hearings: None

XII Recommendation of Agenda Items for Thursday, December 1, 2005:

- Spring and Summer Baseball Softball Public Hearing
- Nomination and Election of Officers*
- Invite Miracle League to December or January PRAC Meeting
- Report on the Process to Notify Leagues about Public Hearings
- Fall Athletic Groups Presentations
- Athletic Activities Committee to report on CCL Issue

XIII Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca J. Parker CPS/CAP

<p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2005, at the Central Library Rooms A & B</p>
